

OGC 70-0796

15 May 1970

[REDACTED]

25X1A

Dear [REDACTED]

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Mr. Helms has asked me to respond to your note of May 9, 1970. I see you refer to Senate Amendment 609 to the Military Procurement Authorization Bill and believe the private citizen can best attempt to influence affairs through his representatives in the Congress.

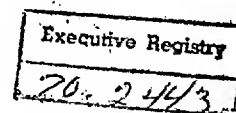
Let me explain a bit about the function of this Agency. As you probably know, our primary duty is to furnish foreign intelligence information and estimates on foreign developments to the policymakers of Government. We are specifically prohibited from any internal-security activities and consequently are not directly involved in domestic matters. All of us who make up the staff of the Agency are, of course, personally concerned with the serious problems confronting our country, both domestic and foreign, but in view of its basic role, the Agency as such can have little impact on the domestic side. Obviously, intelligence contributes to the formulation of policy, but if we are to maintain our standards of objectivity we cannot and should not play a decisive role.

The Government is made up of many components, each with its particular statutory responsibilities and limitations on those responsibilities. That is why I feel, as I said in opening, the private citizen's best chance of influencing the course of Government is through his representatives in the Congress.

Sincerely,

cc: Asst to DCI-Mr. Goodwin
ER w/basic via O/DCI
✓Legislative Counsel
General Counsel

s/
Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel



May 9, 1970

CIA Director
Honorable Richard Helms:

As a U.S. Citizen alarmed at the recent
expansion of the South East War into Cambodia,
I must voice my opposition to this action.

In alignment with this, I am in support
of Senate Amendment 609 to the Military Act
H.R. 17123 by Senators McGovern and Hatfield.

Sincerely,



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